



Obed Wild and Scenic River News

2002

Welcome from the Obed Unit Manager

Welcome to Obed Wild and Scenic River. The park is dedicated to preserving the free-flowing condition and the outstanding water quality of the Obed River System, while protecting its cultural and natural resources for the benefit and use of present and future generations. We hope that you take the time to enjoy some of the unique recreational opportunities that the Obed provides; whether its sitting by the river, white water paddling, climbing, hiking, fishing or camping, we are confident that you will enjoy and come to love the outstanding resources for which the park was set aside.

Many exciting things are happening at the Obed. In 2002, the park will be adding two new staff members to its roles. For the first time, Obed will have a full time Resource Manager on its staff. This person will be responsible for all aspects of the resource management program at the park including water quality and quantity, inventory and monitoring, exotic plant management, and cultural resources. We will also be hiring an additional protection ranger to assist with law enforcement, interpretation, search and rescue, fire, and EMS. We are confident that these two new positions will increase our ability to protect the park and provide additional services to park visitors.

In the spring of 2002, the park will be releasing the draft climbing management plan to the public for comment. This plan has been developed to provide protection for the climbing areas, while providing an opportunity for park visitors to participate in climbing activities.

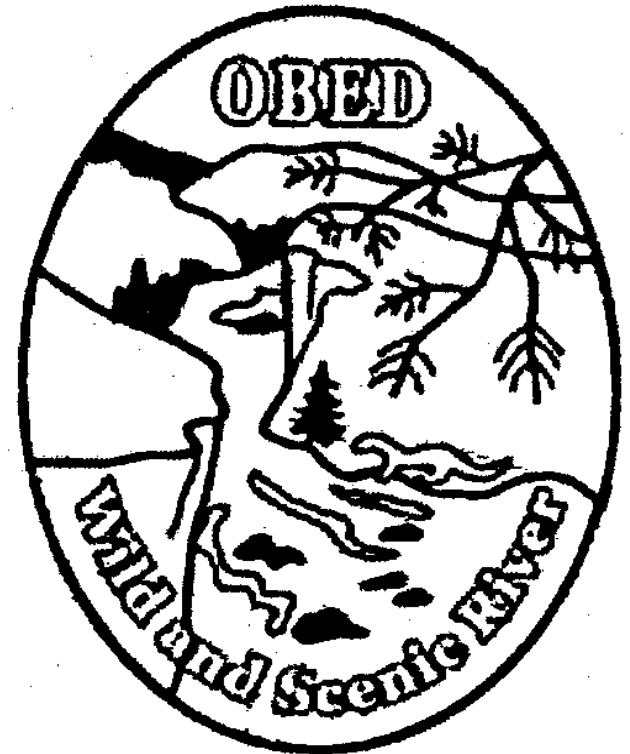
This year Obed Wild and Scenic River has been funded for two large repair projects. Over the course of the next two years, we will be replacing the culvert bridge at Rock Creek Campground. Currently we are in the planning and design phase of the project. Once this is completed, we will complete an environmental assessment on the project. If the project is approved, we will begin construction. During that time, the campground will be closed for two to three weeks. We will notify the public of this well in advance, so park visitors can plan accordingly. We also have received funding to pave the Lilly Bluff parking area. Again we are currently in the planning and compliance stages of this project and will be working towards it completion in late fall.

The Kodak Corporation and the National Park Foundation (NPF) recently awarded a grant of over \$2,000 worth of camera and imaging equipment to the Obed Wild and Scenic River in Wartburg, Tennessee. The grant, consisting of a digital camera, camera case, tripod, photo scanner, and supplies, was awarded as part of a nation-wide grant program for imaging equipment. National parks from across the nation competed for grants under the NPF-Kodak program, and the Obed Wild and Scenic River received everything it applied for. This generous donation from the National Park Foundation and Kodak brings state-of-the-art imaging technology to the Obed Wild and Scenic River. This excellent equipment will be put to good use in the park's interpretive, resource management, and law enforcement activities. We are very pleased to be the recipient of this fine donation.

We are extremely pleased that the National Park Service is working together with Morgan County's Central High School to expand the Obed Wild and Scenic River web site. Students in web-based computer classes at Central High School are currently designing an expanded web page for the park that will include pictures, park specific rules and regulations, a calendar of activities and events, the park's strategic plan and other management plans and policies. This web page will provide information to thousands of park visitors. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of the students and faculty at Central High School and look forward to the unveiling of the expanded web pages.

As you can see, 2002 will be another exciting year for Obed WSR. We are pleased that we all have an opportunity to protect this special place. Please feel free to let us know if you have any comments or concerns about the park. We appreciate your interest in the park and your willingness to help us preserve park resources. Please stop by the visitors center in Wartburg and enjoy the new exhibits that were completed in the fall of 2001. We hope you enjoy your visit to Obed Wild and Scenic River.

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An Introduction to the Obed Wild and Scenic River

By Arthur McDade - Park Ranger

The land of the Cumberland Plateau in East Tennessee is in many ways a land of mystery and surprise. For hundreds of years prior to the present, the area was little visited by outsiders, due to its rugged landscape and relative scarcity of accessible transportation corridors. But the land was always there, a tabletop plateau of sandstone carved with remote and forbidden canyons and gorges.

In the last 70 years or so, the Cumberland Plateau has seen the establishment of several state and national parks and recreation areas that have opened up the area to adventure lovers and recreationists. As early as the mid-1930s several Tennessee state parks, such as Pickett and Cumberland Mountain, beckoned travelers to the Plateau to experience the outdoors. These parks were followed up later by Fall Creek Falls and Frozen Head state parks, expanding further the interest of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts to the uplands of the Cumberland Plateau. Then, in the 1970s, the federal government entered the picture when the U.S. Congress designated two new parks on the plateau. The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area was created in 1974, and in 1976, the establishment of a unique new federal parkland, the Obed Wild and Scenic River (WSR) in Morgan County, Tennessee.

The Obed WSR is one of only a handful of wild and scenic rivers in the whole National Park system. The designation of the Obed as a national wild and scenic river in East Tennessee is a testament to the outstanding water quality and wilderness character of the river system. Some of the wildest country and the cleanest water in the state of Tennessee can be found in the Obed River and its tributaries.

Even though the Obed is a part of the National Park system, it—and the nearby Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area—is not a national park. The Obed was set aside for the wild character of its remote gorges and for the quality of its water drainages. Only limited visitor service developments are to be found in this “park.” The word “wild” is the most descriptive in defining the Obed Wild and Scenic River area. But if a person has an adventurous spirit, he/she will find that the river system and the surrounding rock bluffs provide ample opportunities for fishing, canoeing/kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, and bird watching. It should be pointed out that since the Obed River system is a natural flow unencumbered by man-made dams, the water levels fluctuate greatly. When there is rain, there is water for whitewater. The best water levels for canoeing and kayaking occur in the winter and spring—water levels in

the summer and fall are marginal for boating. But even in low water times, activities such as fishing on Clear Creek or the Obed/Emory rivers, and hiking on the Cumberland Trail offer outdoor recreation for the visitor. A developed overlook at Lilly Bluff is also open year-round, offering an outstanding view of Clear Creek over the four seasons. Rustic camping is also available year-round at the Rock Creek Campground near Nemo Bridge.

The Obed WSR is collaboratively managed by the National Park Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which operates the adjacent Catoosa Wildlife Management Area (the Catoosa WMA is closed to the public during the months of February and March, and during big game hunts).

The spirit of wild and free mountain rivers and streams is alive and well in the Obed Wild and Scenic River area. For those who want a touch of wildness in a rugged landscape, the Obed area can offer one of the best opportunities in all of Tennessee.

Whitewater Boating – Paddle Safe and Enjoy

By Arthur McDade - Park Ranger

Wild rivers/streams like those in the Obed WSR are full of challenge and fun for whitewater boaters, but they also have many inherent dangers. Using rivers for recreation, whether for swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking or boating of any kind, involves risk assumption by the user. Rivers are unpredictable natural features, and people have been injured and killed in all kinds of water-related activities throughout the history of whitewater boating. Wild streams like the Obed system, which flow through remote rock-strewn canyons with demanding and unpredictable water flows, require whitewater boaters to have several physical and mental levels of preparedness. The boater should (1) have a high degree of technical and manual skill in whitewater boating (including self-rescue skills); (2) make a personal assessment of his own level of whitewater skill and experience; and (3) acknowledge the assumption of risk involved in whitewater paddling on the Obed WSR.

Various organizations such as the American Red Cross, American Canoe Association and others have come up with many good recommendations for safety while canoeing, kayaking, and rafting wild rivers (the recommendations can be gotten from these organizations and their publications). These recommendations are important and helpful, but they are still only recommendations. The sad fact remains that river accidents and deaths can occur even after following all prudent safety precautions, simply because wild rivers are very unpredictable. No person nor any organization can guarantee complete safety for any user on any stream or river, including the Obed Wild and Scenic River. But by following prudent safety recommendations, by learning technical skills in whitewater boating, and boating with other experienced paddlers using safe down river skills, a person can assess his personal risk factors on whitewater and make prudent decisions about what streams he should (or should not) paddle.

Before paddling any whitewater stream, however, a person should enroll in a canoe or kayak training class with a reputable outdoor skills company or whitewater club. The East Tennessee Whitewater Club and Chota Canoe Club—just to name a couple—offer training in whitewater boating to their members. These clubs offer

introductory river trips and provide training in canoeing and kayaking that is essential to a beginning paddler. Most of them offer “Eskimo roll” training for kayakers, a skill that must be learned before kayaking on whitewater. These organizations also teach how to “wet exit” a kayak, and how to “rescue swim” in fast water. You can get information about these organizations at the Obed Wild and Scenic River visitor center.

After a person has taken initial training from an outdoor skills company or a whitewater organization, he must then acquire actual “on-river” experience in whitewater boating. Canoe and kayak clubs offer weekend floats on streams of varying difficulty, and they announce these trips in their newsletters. The boater can progressively work his way up from easy to more demanding whitewater as his skills and experience increase.

As the whitewater boater improves his skills through training and experience, he will then need to make an honest assessment of his own skills and preparedness to determine if the whitewater of an isolated river system like the Obed should be attempted. The whitewater in the Obed WSR is rated as Class II-IV (and often times higher, during and after periods of rain). Most of the whitewater in these streams runs through remote gorges containing rock-strewn rapids, hydraulic “holes,” undercut rocks, and possible strainers (trees or limbs beneath the water that can trap a boat or boater). Consequently, the whitewater of the Obed WSR requires technical skills in maneuvering canoes and kayaks through fast moving water with demanding rapids. If a person is not experienced in technical whitewater river running, then he obviously should not attempt to run these streams until they acquire the necessary skills and experience. A whitewater boater should start out on easier whitewater streams with experienced boaters as teachers and guides, and work his way up to more demanding whitewater like the remote Obed system. Only the individual boater can assess his own personal skill and experience levels, and only he can acquire the skills needed for whitewater boating through training and on-river experience.

Even after a boater acquires training and experience, he still has to consider the remote and inaccessible nature of the Obed’s rivers and creeks. A Class III rapid on the Obed is more demanding than a Class III rapid on, say, a river like the Ocoee—in SE Tennessee— because of isolation and remoteness (the Ocoee is a dam-released stream with predictable flows, and has a paved U.S. highway right next to it). On the Obed WSR, there is no easy way out of the stream canyons until the “takeouts,” which may be many miles downstream. There are no roads or ranger stations on these streams. River rescues in the Obed WSR, due to the remoteness, sometimes require many hours, and overnight emergency bivouacs on the streams are not out of the question. Consequently, the effects of a river mishap or injury on this river system can have far more dangerous implications for the boater. On these streams, the ability to self-rescue and paddle safely are paramount factors to a successful trip. Parties of boaters should be in groups of no less than three boats, wear personal floatation devices and helmets at all times, scout rapids and know how to use throw-ropes. All members of the paddling party should be trained in CPR, basic first aid (at a minimum), and be experienced in river rescue for trapped and stranded boaters. Additionally, since whitewater boating on the Obed WSR is usually done in the winter and spring (the wet season), all paddlers should have adequate cold weather whitewater clothing (dry-suits, fleece or polypropylene undergarments, river footwear, river gloves, fleece or wool helmet liners), and spare dry clothing in dry-bags. Weather conditions can be cold and demanding on the Cumberland Plateau, and hypothermia is always a possibility. Extra food and bivouac camping gear should be taken in the event of an unexpected overnight stay. Boaters should always check with the Obed Visitor Center (or go on-line to the USGS river gauges—see General Information in this newspaper for USGS web page) to learn of water levels prior to starting their trips. Knowledge of existing weather conditions, and forecasts for the next day or two, are also crucial to planning a safe trip. Boaters should know that water levels can rise dramatically in the event of rain, making the streams unpredictable and more dangerous.

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Hiking the Obed; A Well Kept Secret

By Kim Williams - Interpretive Ranger

Whether you are a hiker seeking an easy morning stroll or a backpacker looking for a wildland challenge, an opportunity awaits you in the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The 5,100 acres in this seemingly untouched wild refuge offer a hiking adventure that might seem like a well-kept secret. You can hike to the canyon bluffs and look for miles across the river and plateau without another person in sight. The panoramic scenery is indeed a treat to the experienced hiker as well as the novice.

For those looking for an easy stroll, may we suggest the hike to the Lilly Bluff Overlook or the Emory River Nature Trail. To reach the Lilly Bluff Overlook, begin at the overlook parking area above Lilly Bridge and follow the signs along the ¼ mile trail. The trail is a level, gravel-packed route with rest areas and benches provided. This overlook gives a spectacular view of Clear Creek canyon. The Emory River Nature Trail is a 0.7 mile loop trail that begins at the Rock Creek Campground near Nemo. This trail gives an introduction to the natural and cultural history of the area. Be sure to pick up a Nature Trail pamphlet at the trailhead in the campground to enhance your hike.

If you are looking for a moderate to strenuous adventure, then take the 3.8 mile round trip hike along the Point Trail. Park at the Lilly Bluff Overlook parking area and follow the Point Trail signs. You will cross Melton Mill Branch with its cascade of winter waterfalls. Keep hiking along the top of the Cumberland Plateau to a narrow finger ridge separating the Obed River and Clear Creek. Look for the natural arch on the right as you hike out to the Point. When you reach the “end of trail” sign at the Point, you are above the junction of the two dominant stream canyons of the Obed Wild and Scenic River. To return to the starting point of your hike, just retrace your steps.

For backpackers looking for a longer challenge, hike the 14.2 mile Obed segment of the Cumberland Trail (a Tennessee State Park trail adjacent to the Obed Wild and Scenic River). The Obed segment of the Cumberland Trail begins at the Rock Creek Campground and goes to the Devils Breakfast Table. This trail offers a variety of moderate to strenuous sections with abundant lookouts along the bluff line above the Obed River (part of the Cumberland Trail Obed segment is closed during Catoosa Wildlife Management Area closures. Check with the Obed WSR Visitor Center or TWRA at 1-800-262-6704 for information about Catoosa closures).

Being safe while hiking in the Obed Wild and Scenic River will enhance your outdoor experience. Some preventative measures from injury are: stay clear of hazardous trees (especially during windy weather conditions); check for ticks during and after a hike; watch for yellow jackets; be alert for poisonous snakes (remember, you are in their territory so please let them be); avoid poison ivy; be aware of uneven surfaces, such as stumps and loose rocks; be prepared for adverse weather conditions; always carry water, food, extra clothing and a flashlight, and always let someone know of your hiking plans.

Even though the Obed Wild and Scenic River is small in acres, the trails listed above provide ample opportunity to experience this part of the Cumberland Plateau. For more information on hiking in the Obed Wild and Scenic River contact a park ranger at the visitor center in Wartburg, Tennessee.



Climbing - Another Way to Enjoy Obed WSR

By Rob Turan - Park Ranger

Just as rock climbing has literally exploded internationally as a sport so has the popularity of rock climbing at Obed Wild and Scenic River increased proportionately. In recent years climbers from all over the world have made the cliffs of the Obed their destination, sometimes staying for a week at a time. Word of the beautiful colors and hard texture of the Pennsylvania sandstone and the majestic views seen from climbs towering 400 feet above the raging rivers has spread quickly around the climber campfires. They all seem to ask, “Have you been to Obed yet? It’s the most incredible climbing anywhere!” They set their sights on Tennessee, and on any given weekend at the parking lots for the main climbing areas, license plates from all across the country—and even some from Canada—can be seen.

Many people think of sandstone as soft and crumbly but the sandstone at Obed is actually very compact in nature resulting in a hard rock with little breakage. The popularity of the climbing is also due to the steep nature of the cliffs. This means that much of the rock at Obed is not only vertical, it is actually overhanging. It is this overhanging rock that is especially enticing to climbers, whetting their appetites for vertical adventure. The steeper rock is also much safer, for when a climber falls on his lead rope, the climber will hit nothing but air.

The climbs at Obed River range from 40 feet to 200 feet in length. There are approximately 400 established routes in the area. The routes cover a full range of grades, from 5.7 to 5.13. Climbs are graded according to the difficulty of the moves encountered on the climb. A 5.7 can be thought of as a moderate climb that can be done by a person in reasonably good physical shape, something akin to jogging 6 miles an hour (10 minute miles). A 5.13 climb on the other hand, is one in which extremely difficult moves are encountered and can only be done by people who train extensively, something like running 5 minute miles. However, climbing is not about difficulty so much as just having fun at pushing one’s physical and mental limits. With modern day advancements in technical equipment, climbing can be a very safe sport, when done **properly**. Anyone wishing to start climbing should seek qualified instruction to gain the necessary knowledge and skill to keep this sport at a safe level.

Most of the climbing at Obed takes place in three separate areas. Two of the areas are on land owned by the National Park Service while the third area including the access trail is on privately owned land. Climbers should be especially respectful of this private land.

In the spring of 2002, the National Park Service released the park's draft climbing management plan for public comment. We believe that with the assistance of private citizens from both the climbing and environmental communities we have developed a plan that will protect the park resources while providing visitors with an opportunity to climb. The plan recommends that the moratorium placed on the development of new routes within park boundaries remain in place until a comprehensive study of plants in the climbing areas is completed. Please stop by the Obed Visitor Center to obtain a copy of the plan or additional information concerning climbing in the park.

Whitewater - Paddle Safe & Enjoy

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With all these requirements for a safe and successful whitewater trip, it is obvious that the Obed river system requires serious whitewater skills and planning, and is not for the inexperienced or untrained.

Only the individual whitewater boater can make the decision whether these isolated wild rivers and streams of the Obed WSR are too demanding for his whitewater skills. But by patiently acquiring whitewater skills and experience over time on easier streams, and boating with other experienced whitewater paddlers, a person can ultimately elect to join in on the exciting world of whitewater boating on the Obed WSR. Paddle safely, and enjoy!

Obed Wild and Scenic River

2002 INTERPRETIVE EVENTS SCHEDULE

April 13 - Wildflowers of the Obed Area. 7:00 p.m. Slide show and lecture about the beautiful spring wildflowers of Morgan County, TN by Donald Todd, naturalist and Morgan County Historian. Location: Obed WSR Visitor Center.

April 20 - 7:00 P.M. Introduction to Whitewater Paddling in the Obed WSR.

An introduction to canoeing and kayaking the whitewater streams of the Obed WSR. Location: Obed WSR visitor center. Leaders: Park Ranger Arthur McDade and park volunteer Juanita Guinn.

April 27 - 2:00-3:30 P.M. Spring Wildflower Hike on the Point Trail near Lilly Bluff led by park ranger Dave Engebretson of Frozen Head State Park and Obed WSR park ranger Arthur McDade. Hike length: One-mile, round-trip.

May 4 - Owl Prowl at Lilly Bluff Overlook. An evening prowling in the Obed listening for the sounds of the owls. 9:00 P.M. at the Lilly Bluff Overlook. Leader: Obed WSR Park Ranger Arthur McDade

May 11 - BIRD WALK- International Migratory Bird Day, Lilly Bluff Overlook area, led by naturalist David Trently and park ranger Arthur McDade. 8:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. (Meet at Lilly Bluff Overlook parking lot at 8:30 a.m.) Short hike looking and listening for spring birds during International Migratory Bird Day, an event dedicated to understanding and conserving our colorful and fascinating spring migrating birds.

May 18 - National River Clean-up Day at the Obed WSR. 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Join in as a volunteer on a clean up of the Lilly Bridge area on Clear Creek in celebration of National River Cleanup Week. Leaders, Park Ranger Arthur McDade and park Volunteer Mike Kohlenberger.

May 25 - 10:00 a.m -2:00 p.m. Cumberland Trail Hike to Alley Ford. 5 mile round-trip hike along the Cumberland Trail (moderate to strenuous in difficulty). Leader: Park Ranger Arthur McDade.

June 8 - 9:30 p.m. Astronomy at Lilly Bluff area. Meet at Lilly Bluff Overflow parking lot. Leader: Paul Lewis, University of Tennessee astronomer.

June 15 - Owl Prowl at Lilly Bluff Overlook. 9:00 p.m. Leader: Park Ranger Arthur McDade.

June 22 - Introduction to Maps and Compass. 7 p.m. at Obed WSR Visitor Center. An introduction to using a map and compass in the outdoors. Leader: Joe Kelley, former Obed WSR superintendent.

June 29 - To Be Announced.

July 6 - Point Trail Hike. 10:00 a.m -2 p.m. Leader: Park Ranger Kim Williams.

July 13 - The Civil War in Morgan County. 7:00 p.m. Obed WSR Visitor Center. A fascinating presentation on the little known skirmishes and troop movements in and around Morgan County during the Civil War. Presenter: Morgan County Historian Donald Todd.

July 20 - East Tennessee History. 7:00 p.m. at the Obed WSR Visitor Center. An introduction to the history of East Tennessee, and to the East Tenn. Historical Society and its work in preserving the heritage of this area. Presenter: Cherel Henderson, Associate Director, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, TN.

July 27 - Owl Prowl at Lilly Bluff Overlook. 9:00 p.m. Leader: Park Ranger Arthur McDade

August 3 - To Be Announced.

August 10 - The Cumberland Trail: Cumberland Gap to Signal Mountain. 7:00 p.m. Slide show and lecture about the Cumberland Trail by Rob Weber, Executive Director of the Cumberland Trail Conference. Location: Obed WSR Visitor Center.

August 17 - To Be Announced.

August 24 - Indian Trails of the Morgan County Area. Presenter: Donald Todd, Morgan County Historian. 7:00 p.m. at the Obed WSR Visitor Center.

August 31 - Labor Day Weekend Hike along the Point Trail. 10:00 a.m. Leader Kim Williams.

September 14 - Frozen Head State Park: Fall Backpacking and Hiking. Slide show and lecture by Dave Engebretson, park ranger at Frozen Head. 7:00 p.m. at Obed WSR Visitor Center.

September 21 - Fall Hawk Migration Lookout at Lilly Bluff Overlook. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Bring your binoculars and look for migrating hawks from the Lilly Bluff Overlook. Leader Arthur McDade.

September 28 - Astronomy at Lilly Bluff Area. 8 p.m. Leader: Paul Lewis, University of Tennessee astronomer. Meet at the Lilly Bluff overflow parking lot.

October 5 - Point Trail Hike. 10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. Leader: Arthur McDade, park ranger. 3.6 mile round-trip hike to the Point and back.

October 12 - Music Program: “From The British Isles To Appalachia: The Story of Immigration to Appalachia in Song and Story.” Presenter: Dr. Ted Olson of East Tennessee State University’s Center for Appalachian Studies will present a program of Appalachian music and stories at 7:00 p.m. at the Obed WSR Visitor Center.

October 19 - Cumberland Trail Hike-Nemo to Alley Ford. 10:00 a.m.- 3 p.m. Five mile round-trip hike on the Cumberland Trail, Obed segment. Leader: Kim Williams, park ranger.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend these free interpretive programs. All programs and events listed above (including dates and times shown) are subject to change without advance notice. Please check with the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center at 423-346-6294 shortly before a scheduled event to confirm its availability. All times shown are Eastern Time.

Obed General Information

Visitor Center: Visitor Center is located in Wartburg. Operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days a week. Closed on Christmas day.

Accessibility: The visitor center and restrooms located at Lilly, Jett, and Nemo Bridges and Rock Creek Campground are handicap accessible. The trail to Lilly Bluff Overlook is also accessible by wheelchair. One campsite and the restroom at Rock Creek Campground are wheelchair accessible.

Campground: Rock Creek Campground is a primitive camping area open year round. Sites are taken on a first come- first serve basis and are self-registered. Sites are \$7 per night with no available electric hookups or water. Restroom facilities are available.

Backcountry Camping: Camping is allowed anywhere within park boundary as long as it is done 200 ft. from developed park areas.

River Information: The recreational uses of Obed, Clear Creek, & Daddy’s Creek are seasonal because these waterways are free-flowing. The best season for whitewater is early winter through late spring. Technical difficulty for whitewater range from class II to class V rapids. There are no commercially guided trips therefore it is recommended that one have whitewater experience before boating the river. River levels can be obtained by calling the TVA Stream Gauge Info Line 1-800-238-2264 or on the internet at www.dtnnsh.er.usgs.gov/. As always, please call or come by the Visitor Center for information regarding the water levels and other conditions of the river.

Safety Facts: Here is some advice for having a safe and happy experience outdoors: 1) Wearing bug repellent and checking for ticks may prevent bites. 2) Poison Ivy is common vegetation so know what it looks like and avoid coming into contact with it. 3) Be alert for poisonous snakes. 4) When hiking, be careful of loose rocks and stumps. Always carry food, water, extra clothing, and a flashlight. 5) Watch for dead trees and falling branches.

Lost & Found: Lost and found reports/items should be reported to the Obed Wild & Scenic River Visitor Center at 208 N. Maiden St., Wartburg, TN 37887. Visitor Center is open 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Emergency Numbers:
Call 911 or Obed Wild & Scenic Visitor Center (423) 346-6294

Morgan Co. Sheriff’s Office (423)346-6262

Roane Medical Center, Harriman, TN. Emergency Dept. 865-882-4155.

Methodist Medical Center, Oak Ridge, TN. Emergency Dept. 865-481-1190.